

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were the subject of a Restriction Requirement. The Restriction stated that the application claims two patentably distinct inventions divided along the following lines:

Group I: claims 1-6, drawn to an applicator for surgical clips; and

Group II: claims 7-10, drawn to a magazine storage system.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 7 to depend from claim 1, and has amended claims 8-10 for consistency. As a result of the amendment, it is believed that the claims should be examined as one Group, and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Provisional Election

If the Patent Office maintains the Restriction, then Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I.

CONCLUSION

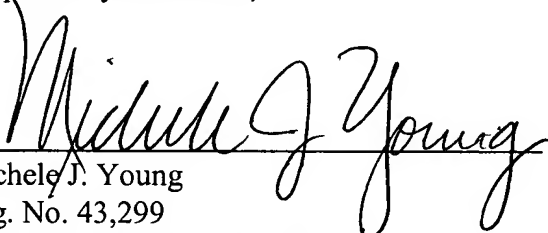
In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully asserts that this application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 19, 2004

By: _____


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